

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the Final Office Action of November 13, 2007.

Claims 11-21 are in the application.

Claims 11-21 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bunch, Jr. (US Patent No. 5,400,672).

In support of such rejection the Examiner noted:

“Bunch, Jr. shows the claimed invention where a gear shaped like a star (projecting points around the periphery) and has a plastic portion (11) between the hub (as at 18) and the teeth (32) which allows for some flexibility and shock absorption.”

In response thereto it is submitted that the rejection is not directed toward the presently claimed subject and that the reference is unrelated to the presently claimed invention and is certainly not anticipated thereby.

All the present claims 11-21 of the application and specifically independent claims 11, 18 and 21 each have the claims limitations of a wheel with the elements of a hub, a peripheral transmission part (a drive element such as teeth) around the hub and “an elastic part arranged to mechanically link said hub to said transmission part”, with all the claims further requiring that the elastic part deforms to provide a shift in the rotation axis of the transmission part (the teeth) relative to the hub.

Claim 11 requires that:

“...said elastic part is adapted to undergo a deformation to turn from said first state to a second state **in which the rotation axis of said transmission part is shifted with respect to that of said hub...**”

Claim 18 requires that a second wheel is driven by the first wheel:

“...through deformation of said elastic part by **which said transmission part rotation axis is shifted with respect to the rotation axis of said hub...**”

Claim 21 requires that:

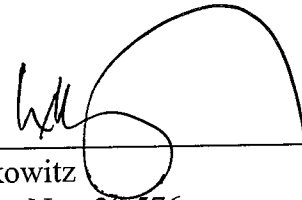
“...a rotational jump of said wheel occurring through deformation of said elastic part for allowing one of said teeth to pass by said bridge or counterbore **by shifting said transmission part rotation axis with respect to that of said hub...**”

The Bunch, Jr. reference shows a gear with a hub 18 and teeth 32 ,but element 11, cited

by the Examiner as being plastic, is the entire gear, is not described (even inherently) as being elastic or even plastic (as contended by the Examiner) or even capable of deformation and there is certainly no shifting of rotation axis of the teeth with respect to the rotation axis of the hub. It is noted that elements 15, 22 and 23 which are characterized by Bunch, Jr. as being resilient do not mechanically link the hub and teeth and certainly do not shift the respective rotation axis of the hub relative to the rotation axis of the teeth. The gears of Bunch, Jr. are all solid and although there is a description of a shift in axis between different gears which are made to move apart, there is no shift of axis between rotating elements within a single gear, as required in the present claims, nor does the solid structure of the Bunch, Jr. gears allow for an internal shift as claimed herein. Bunch, et al. does not and cannot anticipate the presently claimed invention and the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 11, 18 and 21 and to allow such claims. Claims 12-17 and 19-20 are also allowable for at the least the reasons given with respect to independent claims 11 and 18 upon which they are dependent.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
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THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS
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Respectfully submitted,



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